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**CONSPIRATOR IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IDENTIFICATION THEFT RING
PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TIFFANY ANN SABRAL, 27, of Chico, California, pled guilty to federal conspiracy and bank fraud charges before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell.

This case is the product of a combined investigation by the Butte County Sheriff's Department, Chico Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and other law enforcement agencies in Northern California, specifically including state and local authorities in Glenn, Tehama, and Plumas Counties.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, SABRAL pled guilty to conspiring with co-defendants JODI LYNN GARCIA, 31, of Paradise, California, HEATHER MICHELLE WILSON, 34, of Chico, California, and TANYA LESLIE WELLMAN, 37, of Durham, California. The conspiracy alleges that SABRAL executed a scheme to manufacture checks with account numbers of others and to negotiate the checks at federally insured financial institutions, as well as at casinos and merchants in Northern California. The conspirators in the scheme are alleged to have stolen identification and account number information from the United States mail and elsewhere to create the fraudulent checks. SABRAL's sentencing hearing is scheduled for November 5, 2007 before Judge Damrell.

In a related case, MELISSA ANN MEIER, 19, of Chico, California was arrested on August 21, 2007, and charged with bank fraud and possession of stolen United States mail. MEIER is an associate of GARCIA. MEIER's next court appearance is scheduled for September 7, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. for a preliminary hearing before United States Magistrate Gregory G. Hollows. GARCIA, WILSON, and WELLMAN are scheduled for a status hearing on September 10, 2007 before Judge Damrell.

SABRAL faces up to 30 years imprisonment for bank fraud and up to five years imprisonment for participation in the conspiracy. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines,

which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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